

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LONDON 15228 01 OF 02 201914Z

43

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 EB-07 COME-00 TRSE-00 FRB-01 CIEP-01 SIL-01

LAB-01 /066 W

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R 201842Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5884

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

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USMISSION OECD PARIS

AMCONSUL BELFAST

AMCONSUL EDINBURGH

AMCONSUL LIVERPOOL

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 01 OF 02 LONDON 15228

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, UK, PINT

SUBJECT: UNION LEADER SAYS THAT OVERALL ANTI-MARKET
GROUP WILL LAUNCH ITS DRIVE NEXT WEEK

REF: LONDON 11509

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: CLIVE JENKINS, ONE OF THE MOST VOCI-
FEROUS AND OUTSPOKEN ANTI-MARKETEERS ON THE TUC GENERAL
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PAGE 02 LONDON 15228 01 OF 02 201914Z

COUNCIL SAID THAT THE "GET BRITAIN OUT OF THE MARKET"

DRIVE WILL BE LAUNCHED NEXT WEEK (ON THE EVE OF THE LABOR PARTY CONFERENCE), WITH THE ACTIVE PARTICIPATION OF AT LEAST TEN TRADE UNION AFFILIATES OF THE BRITISH TUC.
END SUMMARY

2. JENKINS TOLD A GROUP OF LONDON-BASED LABOR ATTACHES THAT THE ANTI-MARKET MOVEMENT WILL BE SEEKING A REFERENDUM BY MARCH 1ST, AND BRITAIN'S WITHDRAWAL FROM THE COMMUNITY BY NEXT SUMMER. THE NEW GROUP, HE SAID, IS SEEKING A SIMPLE SHORT BILL AUTHORIZING THE REFERENDUM AND ESTABLISHING TWO LOBBIES -- A "YES" AND "NO" LOBBY ON BRITISH MEMBERSHIP. THE LEGISLATION SOUGHT WOULD GIVE EACH LOBBY PRIVILEGED ACCESS TO THE MEDIA AND SET CLEAR LIMITS -- SIMILAR TO THOSE PREVAILING AT ELECTION TIME -- ON EXPENDITURES "SO THAT BRUSSELS' MONEY SHOULD NOT BE POURING INTO BRITAIN." MOST IMPORTANTLY, JENKINS ADDED, THE VOTING WOULD BE CARRIED OUT BY CONSTITUENCIES (IN THE EXPECTATION OF VERY LARGE ANTI-MARKET MAJORITIES IN CERTAIN CRITICAL AREAS SUCH AS SCOTLAND AND WALES).

3. JENKINS CLAIMED THAT JACK JONES, LEADER OF THE TUC'S MOST POWERFUL AFFILIATE, THE TRANSPORT AND GENERAL WORKERS UNION, HAS AGREED TO BECOME A MEMBER OF THE ORGANIZATION'S GOVERNING BODY, AND THAT TEN UNIONS OF THE TUC, WHICH HE WOULD NOT IDENTIFY, HAVE AGREED TO CONTRIBUTE 1,000 POUNDS EACH INITIALLY TO THE ANTI-MARKET DRIVE. ACCORDING TO JENKINS, ONLY TWO UNIONS REPRESENTED ON THE TUC GENERAL COUNCIL -- THE ASSOCIATION OF PROFESSIONAL, EXECUTIVE, CLERICAL AND COMPUTER STAFF (APEX), UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF R.A. GRANTHAM, AND THE IRON AND STEEL TRADES FEDERATION, LED BY SIR DAI DAVIS -- REMAIN STEADFAST SUPPORTERS OF CONTINUED BRITISH MEMBERSHIP. MOST UNIONS, HE SAID, WERE OPPOSED AND OTHERS WHICH HAVE BEEN PREVIOUSLY IN FAVOR OF BRITISH MEMBERSHIP OR ON THE FENCE, SUCH AS THE LARGE MUNICIPAL WORKERS UNION (LED BY DAVID BASNETT), THE ELECTRICAL WORKERS UNION (LED BY FRANK CHAPPLE) AND THE NATIONAL UNION OF RAILWAYMEN (UNDER SIR SIDNEY GREENE), AND THE SHOP DISTRIBUTIVE WORKERS (UNDER LORD ALLEN) HAVE EITHER MOVED OR ARE MOVING INTO THE "ANTI" COLUMN.

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PAGE 03 LONDON 15228 01 OF 02 201914Z

4. THE TUC LEADER ALSO DECLARED THAT THE LABOR PARTY IS FULLY COMMITTED TO HAVING A SPECIAL CONFERENCE ON THE EC ISSUE, AT WHICH HE SAID "THERE WILL BE A RESOUNDING NO" TO BRITISH MEMBERSHIP. THIS DECISION WILL PROVIDE THE LEAD TO THE TWO WINGS OF THE LABOR MOVEMENT AND WILL MAKE TOTALLY UNNECESSARY ANY POSITION BY THE GOVERNMENT ITSELF. (IN A SEPARATE CONVERSATION, HAROLD WALKER,

UNDERSECRETARY OF STATE FOR EMPLOYMENT, TOLD US THAT THE DECISIVE POSITION ON THE EC ISSUE WOULD BE NOT THAT OF THE UNIONS BUT THE PARTY.)

5. WE HAVE ALSO BEEN INFORMED THAT ANTI-MARKETEERS ARE PREPARING THEIR TRADITIONAL EVE - OF LABOR PARTY CONFERENCE RALLY ON NOVEMBER 26TH - AT WHICH MICHAEL FOOT, PETER SHORE, DOUGLAS JAY AND JENKINS HIMSELF WILL BE AMONG THE PRINCIPAL SPEAKERS. IF JENKINS' REPORT ABOUT A NEW OVERALL GROUP IS ACCURATE, THIS RALLY COULD HELP TO LAUNCH IT. (THE OFFICE OF THE COMMON MARKET SAFEGUARDS CAMPAIGN, OF WHICH DOUGLAS JAY IS CHAIRMAN, WAS RELUCTANT TO PROVIDE ANY INFORMATION ABOUT A NEW OVERALL

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PAGE 01 LONDON 15228 02 OF 02 201858Z

43

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 EB-07 COME-00 TRSE-00 FRB-01 CIEP-01 SIL-01

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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 02 OF 02 LONDON 15228

GROUP EXCEPT TO SAY THAT IT EXPECTED IT "WOULD BE
LAUNCHED SOON.")

6. THE OVERALL CURRENT TUC POSITION WAS SUMMARIZED IN
ONE OF ITS ORGANS ("LABOR"- OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 1974)
WHICH STATES: "THE TUC IS STILL AGAINST BRITISH MEMBER-
SHIP OF THE COMMON MARKET, AND IT STILL WANTS NOTHING
TO DO WITH PARTICIPATION IN EEC INSTITUTIONS. AND THE
TUC WANTS THE BRITISH PEOPLE TO HAVE A CHANCE OF DECID-
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PAGE 02 LONDON 15228 02 OF 02 201858Z

ING WHETHER BRITAIN STAYS IN THE MARKET OR GETS OUT --
IN A REFERENDUM, TO BE HELD SOON." HOWEVER, A TUC
OFFICIAL TOLD US THAT IT WAS VERY UNLIKELY THAT THE TUC
AS A BODY WOULD PARTICIPATE IN THE RUN-UP DRIVE TO THE
REFERENDUM, LEAVING THIS ACTIVITY TO ITS CONSTITUENT
UNIONS.

7. COMMENT: IN REPORTING JENKINS' VIEW, WE WOULD EMPHA-
SIZE THAT IT REFLECTS THAT OF ONE OF THE MOST VIOLENTLY
ANTI-MARKET TRADE UNION LEADERS IN THE BRITISH TRADE
UNION MOVEMENT. (DURING THE LAST TUC CONFERENCE HE
DISCUSSED THE EC IN THE MOST CONTEMPTUOUS AND DERISORY
TERMS). THIS OPINION THUS COLORS NOT ONLY HIS
ASSESSMENT OF THE SITUATION BUT HIS PREDICTIONS FOR THE
FUTURE. HOWEVER, OTHER TRADE UNION OBSERVERS -- WITH
A LESS PASSIONATE STANCE -- WOULD SAY THAT THE TRADE
UNION MOVEMENT'S FINAL DECISION WILL DEPEND ON MANY
FACTORS, THE MOST IMPORTANT OF WHICH IS THAT OF PRIME
MINISTER WILSON HIMSELF. IN THIS COOLER VIEW, IF
WILSON WERE TO DECIDE AT THE END OF THE DAY TO TRY TO
KEEP BRITAIN IN THE COMMUNITY, THE CURRENTLY OVERWHELM-
INGLY LOPSIDED OPPOSITION (ALTHOUGH NOT PERHAPS AS LOP-
SIDED AS JENKINS SUGGESTS) WOULD SOFTEN.

8. THESE SAME OBSERVERS BELIEVE THAT UNDER THE LATTER
CIRCUMSTANCE EVEN JACK JONES MIGHT BE PERSUADED TO SHIFT
FROM HIS ANTI-MARKET POSITION TO AT LEAST A NEUTRAL ROLE.
A SHIFT IN JONES' POSITION WOULD BE VERY IMPORTANT IN
TRADE UNION TERMS BECAUSE, AT THE VERY LEAST, IT WOULD
FREE A NUMBER OF UNIONS, WHICH ARE SATELLITES TO HIS OWN,
TO MOVE EITHER TO A NEUTRAL POSITION OR EVEN TO A PRO-
EC MEMBERSHIP POSITION. (A LATER MESSAGE WILL REVIEW
THE POSITION OF ROY GRANTHAM, LEADER OF THE NOW TINY

BAND OF PRO-MARKETEERS WITHIN THE TUC).

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